

the scribe

University of Bridgeport 15¢ Vol. 46 No. 11 October 16, 1973

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Funds slim for festival IFC upset

A \$525.00 allocation from Student Council and lack of facilities to hold a mixer make a successful Oct. 26-28 Homecoming Weekend appear shaky.

The Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), to date the only organization on campus willing to sponsor the weekend, asked Council at last Wednesday's meeting for an allocation of \$1,142.00 to cover the Homecoming Football Game and a mixer. The figure was knocked down because Council was unwilling to allocate funds for liquor at the mixer, rental of a hall, and photographs and flowers for the Homecoming Queen.

Council has decided this year not to allocate money for liquor. They also agreed that flowers and photographs should be paid for by the Sorority or fraternity who nominates the winner.

A facility for a mixer Saturday night has been confined to the basement of Barnum Mall. The Social Room of the Student Center is booked for the evening, and Marina Dining Hall will no longer house mixers due to damage caused at previous functions. The Student Center will allow a mixer on Friday night with the stipulation that no liquor be served.

"If we have a mixer in the Student Center, no one will come," said Steve Frohn, IFC president. "We might throw a mixer in Barnum, but I can't see any feasible way of putting 500 people in there."

"I can see Marcia Buell's point in not letting us have our mixer there. Marina is a food facility and doesn't have a maintenance crew. They have had too many things broken and stolen."

The rock group, Threshold, tentatively scheduled to play at the mixer, is booked for the weekend and IFC has no substitute. "At this point we have no group to play at a mixer," Frohn said.

Council has only allocated IFC \$300.00 for a band.

A Homecoming football game, free to students with a U.B.I.D. will take place for Saturday afternoon. Floats, banners, a knight on a horse, and Homecoming Queen sponsored by the various sororities and fraternities are scheduled.



Dean of Students, Alfred R. Wolff, addresses students at a rally organized last week by Jewish students to raise funds for the Israeli army's effort in the Middle East.

(Scribe photo by Dennis Jeanos)

Hubbell Opens to Music BOD Begins Series

The first of what is hoped to be a series of concerts got off to a modest, but enjoyable, start last Saturday evening as the Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium opened up to music for the first time in more than two years.

The concert, produced by the Board of Directors (BOD), in conjunction with Student Council, featured Bridgeport's own familiar music face, the Rick MacDonald Group, and a band of four men from Westport known as The Buds.

The last time a concert was held in Hubbell was during Spring Weekend in 1971 when Seatrain and Spirit were the feature attractions in what was planned to be an outdoor affair. Because of rain, however, the performances were moved inside. Since that time, BOD has had its problem, like the Student Council, in trying to schedule concerts in the gymnasium with permission from both the administration of the University and the city of Bridgeport.

Although BOD declined from calling the concert a "test," Chairman Irv Nachamkin did say he hoped that any con-

frontation with either the University or the city about the students' rights to have concerts in the gym would have to come soon in light of Saturday's performances.

Nachamkin also said the concert set a precedent for other concerts in the future.

As for the entertainment itself. It was not bad considering this was first time around in a long period. The acoustics in Harvey Hubbell created a near-perfect setting for both the bitter and sometimes sweet sounds of the warm-up band, The Buds, and the mellow and sometimes explosive sounds of MacDonald.

MacDonald, with his now-famous \$700, 12-string Guild guitar, led his group with a dozen songs. Many had the audience in tears, especially Diane Scanlon's chanting of the opener, "Good-bye, Good-Bye." While MacDonald took care of things in his "office," the piano, in between stints on the guitar, Ace Holleran, also the drummer with Repairs, added a little jazz and rollin' rock to the more

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Students support Israel committees raise funds

By JILL LANDES
News Editor

The recent outbreak of war in the Middle East has prompted University students to raise money, blood, and spirit in support of Israel.

Committees organized by Jewish groups on campus have collected over \$1,000 so far, as part of the huge nationwide effort by the United Jewish Appeal to help Israel finance defense already running over a billion dollars.

Students have pledged to contribute pints of their blood to Israel when the bloodmobile visits the campus on Oct. 24. According to Gary Oppenheimer, a senior at the University, the Red Cross will match the amount of blood contributed if Israel requests it. "But students must specifically ask that their blood be used to help Israel," he said.

Last Wednesday a mass rally was held in front of the Student Center, but only approximately one hundred students attended to hear statements from Connecticut Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, Bridgeport Mayor Nicholas A. Panuzio, and campus notables.

A written statement was prepared by Sen. Ribicoff and read by David Leichman, director of Jewish activities. "The Arabs, by their recklessness, and the Israelis by their restraint have provided the strongest support to Israel's argument for secure and defensible borders," the statement said.

Brundage Wins At Frosh Polls

Dianne Brundage edged out Kenneth Kapler in the race for freshman class president by 23 votes last week.

Of a meager 123 votes, Brundage captured 73 and Kapler, 50.

Miss Brundage plans to initiate activities for the freshman class, including a freshman picnic to be held later in the year. "I want to get involved with this school," she said. "I want to meet the people in my class. I think I can do a good job."

Miss Brundage was sworn in at the Student Council meeting last Wednesday, and is now a voting member of Council.

"The Arabs are not yet interested in a peaceful settlement... (which) means that Arab leadership is still unwilling to accept the fact of Israel's national existence."

"The U.S. must support Israel with the diplomatic support and the arms it needs to prevent this latest Arab aggression to go unpunished."

Mayor Panuzio called for consistent support from the United States and added hope that "someday there will be true peace for the Jewish community."

Dr. Alfred R. Wolff, dean of students, spoke of the Palestinian mountain fortress Massada invaded by the Romans over two thousand years ago, and said that Jews everywhere must take the oath that there will never be another Massada. "We must give money," he said, "until it hurts."

Herbert L. Cohen, a trustee of the University and vice president of the Connecticut Commission of the Arts, rehearsed the Jewish history of survival and persecution, and asked why in many countries "intoxication of having too much oil is more important than the intoxication of the principles of democracy."

Also present at the rally were Bob Rasher, Protestant chaplain of students, and Jessica Taub of the United Jewish Appeal.

Students interested in donating funds or contributing blood for Israel can call ext. 461 or visit the Office of Jewish Concern in the Interfaith Center at Stratford Hall.

Boone not worried about funds

Those of you worrying because you've heard a rumor that construction expenses for the new Magnus Wahlstrom Library have exceeded the budget allotted and have also absorbed funds set aside for new books and other materials can now sleep peacefully. Morell Boone, University Librarian, is not worried—about new books anyway.

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✓ **Boone**

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"A common misconception when a large sum of money is spent for a building is that there will not be enough left for other things," Boone said.

He crushed the rumor by stating, "the Magnus Wahlstrom Library is separately funded. Its expenses have nothing to do with the purchasing of books. Books and related materials are purchased with part of student tuition money, grants, and other sources, and this year's budget will not be any lower than in previous years, according to the information I have from the administration."

"Personally, I don't think the book budget is large enough, but the administration has not indicated less," he continued.

Boone appears to be an individual determined to upgrade the academic standards and quality of service to be offered in the new library. He is also anxious about the quantity of service.

"Our major problem right now is staffing. We don't have enough specialists, and I don't think we'll have them by the spring, either," Boone remarked. "The more research orientated we want and need to be, the more we need librarians with a subject speciality. Presently we have ten and one-half, the half meaning one of us work only on week-ends. The librarians we have now are qualified to maintain and operate the new library, but we will not be able to move in a different direction until we have more. We will also have more floors to staff, and more staff costs money," he added.

In addition to the \$25,000 grant the new library received from Mrs. Ralph E. McEldowney, mentioned in a separate article in this issue, the University is

Library gets \$25,000

Morrell Boone, head librarian at the University, calls an endowment from Mrs. Ralph E. McEldowney "no ordinary gift."

Mrs. McEldowney, of Bridgeport, wife of the late president of a brokerage firm in the city and a director of the Black Rock Bank & Trust Company, donated an endowment of over \$25,000 to the University's library last week.

"This library fund will provide \$1,250 in bank interest benefits each year," he said.

"In a period of 24 years the library will have received more than the original endowment in interest benefits alone. This form of income is one that can be used forever, since the original \$25,000 remains in the bank," he said.

The endowment is an unusual one since its terms state that it may be used to purchase anything from rare books to microfilm, Boone said. Most gifts the library receives allow for the purchase of materials which pertain to a certain belief or sentiment of the donor, he stated.

Boone is uncertain of what exactly the income from the endowment will be used for, however, he said the money will be included in this year's budget.

part of an \$8,000 grant shared by the Fairfield and Sacred Heart University libraries, according to Boone. "We're getting 75 per cent of it due to our size," he said.



(Scribe Photo by Ted Hopkins)

AMERICA: "Our Songs...come out like throwing up."

By JOHN POMERLEAU

Mankind has used the arts for messages, and in today's "rock" generation, many messages are conceived from lyrics of successful rock band are messages, as many people have done on the group America. The band states that their only "message" is to enjoy music.

And there was the famed rock trio America, stationed inside an athletic locker and shower room before their turn at a sell-out crowd last Friday in the Fairfield University gym.

Twelve guitars were lined about. Gerry Beckley, sitting with an old friend, strumming an acoustic guitar, singing softly, conversing casually. Dewey Bunnell, standing with one foot on a bench, playing an unstrapped electric guitar. Dan Peek, withdrawn in the hollow of the shower room along with a Les Paul guitar, a small amp, and a lot of fine sounds. Also present were the bassist, drummer and a bunch of over-protective roadmen. Missing from the expected rock-band-dressing room image was the pot and the colorful groupies. America's songs aren't meant

to be symbolic; but one can let them mean whatever one wants. "Our songs are our own thing, they just come out like throwing up," Bunnell said.

America identifies their audience as themselves, people enjoying music. "Our music is affected by the change we go through, and we hope the world goes through, to coincide with our feelings."

Before the show, Beckley was saying how the group is serious in their performance and doesn't play phony games. "You just wait and see me on stage, I usually don't say much." On the contrary, he turned out to be America's main speaker, but evidently the band is concerned about giving a good show as they gave their audience a wide variety of material and made sure their music was approved with a "Having a good time?" The crowd roared "Yea!"

America finishes their show, but an encore is demanded. The band first gets into "Cornwall Blank," a song off their Homecoming album, and then they shoot into "Just a little of Nothing."

Their twelve guitars lined about on stage, Beckley

strumming wildly, Bunnell playing electric guitar, Peek, withdrawn from the audience's eye, creating fine sounds from his Les Paul. The group doesn't seem to realize an audience is present; having a good time?

This Fairfield crowd enjoyed it. So did America.

✓ **Hubbell**

continued from page 1

lively pieces performed by the sextet.

MacDonald, performing his second job this year at Bridgeport, sang a solo of another tune he has written called "Leavin' Town." After he commanded the audience to "pick your nose and find some boogie," some of his more loyal followers did just that to the band's theme song, "Rollin' a Jay."

Buds did an adequate job of warming the audience of between three and 400 for the premiere group. The Westport band of four, led by Tony MacDonald, did a soothing mix of rock and ballads while contending with an often overzealous lighting crew employed by BOD. "Merry-Go-Round" and "Rain" were just two of the originals done by the quartet whose audience sat in anticipation of the Rick MacDonald Group throughout most of the performance.

In any event, there doesn't appear to be any obvious reason—judging solely from the performance of Rick MacDonald and the others last weekend—why there shouldn't be more concerts held in the gym.

—DJR

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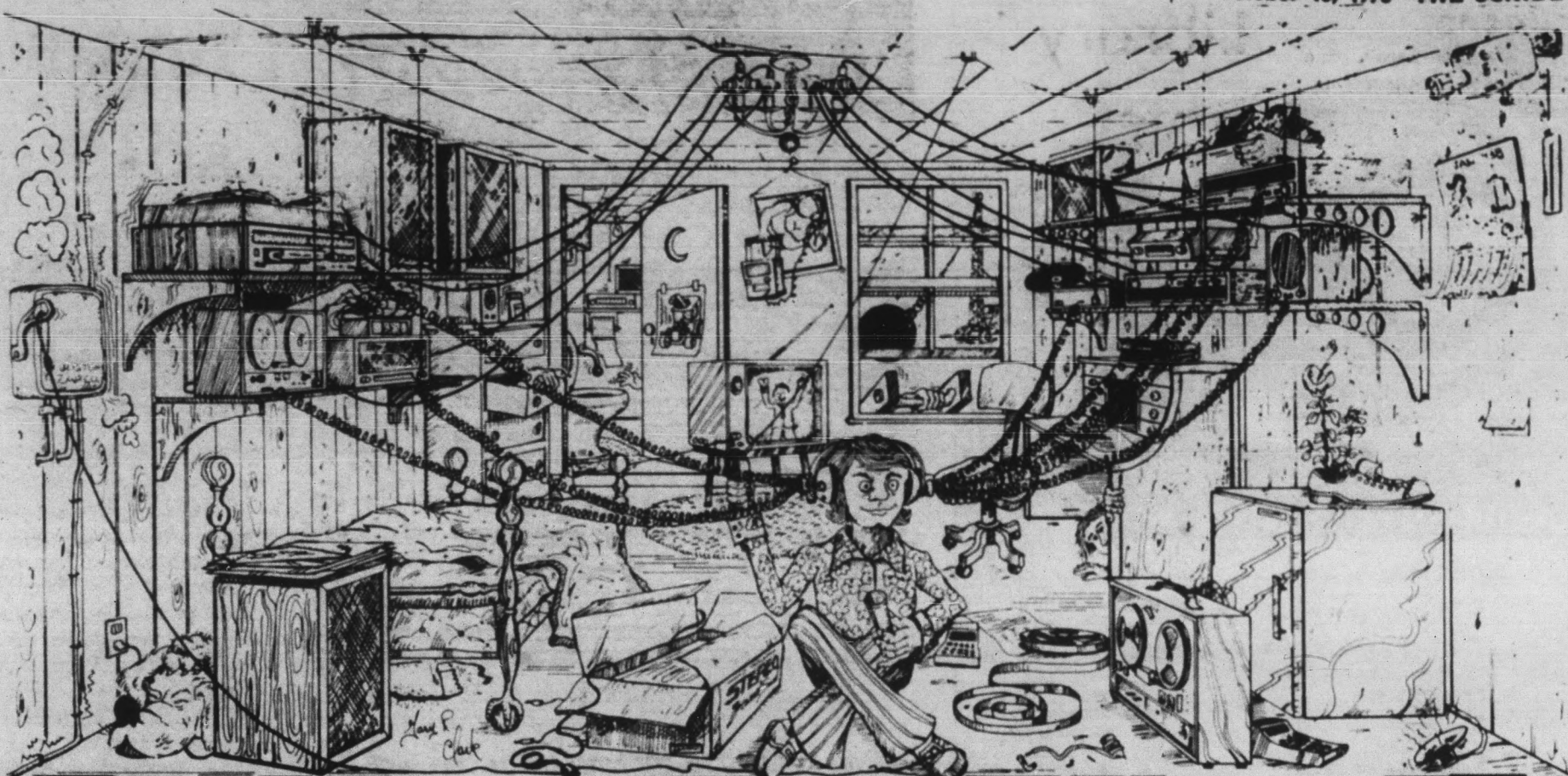
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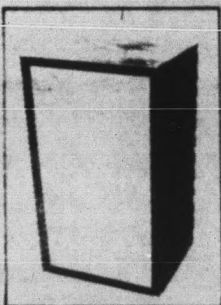
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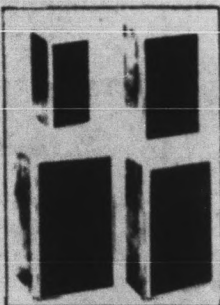
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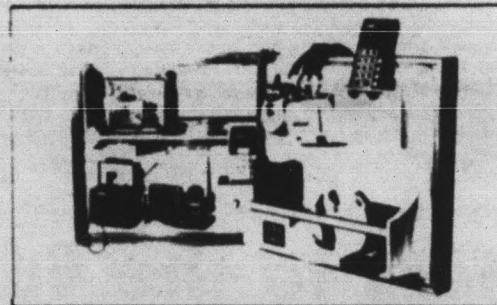
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End of a seige??

The American people, the majority of whom were hijacked into voting two of the nation's most scandalous and politically-abusive men not once, but twice, into the highest elected offices of the land, saw one of the pair shamefully excuse himself from his position last week. Spiro T. Agnew, not many days after holding to the conviction of "damn lies," denying any thoughts of resignation and denouncing his enemies in the press, threw in the vice-presidential towel and fell into the darkest political oblivion of his career.

Last Wednesday, he both resigned from an office millions of Americans saw wise to honor him with and, in effect, pleaded guilty to a charge of tax evasion. It will be known in a future history book as the second half of "The Rise and Fall of Spiro T. Agnew." Not only will it be viewed as a personal tragedy in the life of a once seemingly great American, but will be a grim reminder to many men of the dangers in power and political glory.

The charges have run the whole gamut—from bribery to extortion to kickbacks stemming from his days as a Maryland official—and Spiro Agnew will carry them with him for a long time no matter what the outcome of the trials. His battles in court to vindicate himself were nothing more than modest attempts to pave a golden path for someone he saw above all crime—himself. He also thought it possible to raise himself above the truths of the Constitution in his effort to prove Justice Department officials were conspiring to poison his case by leaking charges under investigation by a Baltimore grand jury, thus allowing his trio of attorneys to subpoena newsmen as his famous battles with the media came right down to the wire.

But Spiro Agnew, once the attack co-ordinator against media liberals, negative elitists, and all the anti-Nixon types, who by some twist of Agnew rhetoric got identified as traitors to the American ethic, has created a tragedy on the American front, the scar of which may never dissolve away.

The Agnew towel toss represents the real beginning of the end to the Nixon administration. The events crowding around the White House—Watergate, the tapes, busing, wiretaps, impounding of funds, Florida hideaways—are all coming to a head now. Some who thought Nixon may have been climbing out of his slump are badly misinformed. In actuality, the President's batting average is dropping steadily with every flimsy statement he makes about any issue or any action he takes, including the appointment of a 25-year Congressional veteran to take the place of his one-time hatchet man.

So, what is left? Like Michaelangelo once said on his second attempt at the Sistine Chapel, it's back to the drawing board. For America, we still see a glimmer of hope.

Although the now-apparent deception in the 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns were almost too much for most Americans to cope with and despite the fact many of those same Americans have lost faith and conviction in this administration or, for that matter, the entire spectrum of democratic politics, there is still a chance.

Nixon can follow the sensible precedent set by his near criminal colleague, and resign. That seems to be all that's left. America must soon rinse the garbage out of her system and at least attempt to get back on to the honest and internationally-respected road to recovery. It may not be too late. Yet, we see little end to the current chaos now taking its toll in every barbershop, university and business office in the nation, until the present state of seige, the seige of unwanted corruption and deception, is terminated.

Kalbacher's cliché, however, we cannot opt for the opposite notion: anything that suits our fancy ought to be censored.

I propose a third alternative:

the critical, historical and relative notion. With this notion, we reject the claim that nothing ought to be censored. We accept

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Inmates still waiting

Lack of student response has caused one of the University's newest student interest groups to get off to a dismal start this fall.

Letters To Prisoners, an organization sponsored by the Interfaith Center, recently invited everyone on campus to participate in their program and correspond with the inmates of a local prison. Only ten students, however, have shown any interest in writing letters to the inmates and, as a result, the project is having a hard time getting started.

The program is headed by Peter Wasilewski, a former inmate, and a sociology-criminology major at the University. It was started last spring with the Young Christians Ori Campus group and continued through the summer, although many students were on semester break. Efforts to revive the program again this fall have proven unsuccessful so far.

The program is geared to help inmates of the North End Correctional Center in Bridgeport with problems within the prison, within society itself, and possibly to discuss inmates' family situations. The letters are also aimed at making the inmates feel that they have a friend on campus and to show them that one mistake will not be held against them.

Besides the letter correspondence, the organization will also host speakers on the subject of "Prison Awareness." All are invited to attend these sessions, held every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Interfaith Center. Among scheduled guests are William Aderbury, a former inmate who spent eleven years in prisons across the country, to talk about his experiences, and Joseph Gagne, a federal probations officer, on Oct. 24.

Future tentative guest speakers include the assistant warden of the North End Center, Grande Whittingstall, and a former inmate who spent seven years on death row.

The Prison Letters group will also plan a visit to the prison in Bridgeport and possibly to the Somers maximum security Prison in Niantic.

Wasilewski said that when the program first became publicized, many students said they wanted to see what it was all about. But when it started, few showed up.

"Until people become aware of the problems," Wasilewski said, "the same conditions within our prison systems will stay the same."

PAM CARDILLA

Letters to the Editor

KONG CENSORSHIP

To the Editor:

Messrs. Barclay and Kalbacher's commentaries over the King Kong Dilemma were interesting. Never have I witnessed so much philosophizing in the pages of our Scribe. The commentaries are pregnant with such concepts as "freedom of speech," "academic freedom," "critical thinking," "racism"; and even the resurrection of John Stuart Mill for the occasion. These concepts to suggest three basic claims:

1.) censorship ought never be actualized because it denies the absolute right of freedom of speech.

2.) King Kong film ought not to be censored.

3.) Racism ought to be eliminated through intelligent, free and critical dialogue and I suppose, praxis.

My tendency is to view these three theses as rather simple in their solution. Why? I believe for a number of serious reasons (I can only provide two general ones because of space.)

First, freedom is not absolute nor is it in actuality, abstract. Freedom is relative, concrete and possesses a history. This conclusion immediately shatters simplicity on this matter concerning the nature of

freedom. However, it is such simplicity and perniciousness that one feels when confronted with Warren Barclay's insistence, "To cancel this movie for the above reason is without doubt, censoring. It is as if we censored a pornographic movie, or a pro-Nazi film on this campus. I would not agree to censor these; or for that matter, any film."

Now I grant to our intelligence that censorship is a delicate issue; but so is freedom. History has cautioned us, amongst other things, about two impediments to human freedom: racism and anti-semitism and racism. Certainly freedom would not be furthered by allowing racist and anti-semitic propaganda to flow freely in our university. How can a film on the inferiority of a particular group (Barclay's pro-Nazi film) assist in man's strife towards freedom?

Barclay and Kalbacher's confusion lie in the simplistic notion that freedom is the absolute right to do anything. They see censorship as an abstract absolute and thus, ought to be perceived as always negative.

I believe that the negativity or positivity of censorship depends upon how intelligent, how sincere and critical human beings are. Once we reject Barclay and

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Letters to the Editor

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Israel's insistence on secure and defensible borders has been validated by the unprovoked attack on the Jewish state by two Arab nations, Egypt and Syria. Were the present borders of Israel as vulnerable as those of pre-1967, the Arabs' first-strike would have gravely endangered the State's existence.

The attack, long in planning, was deliberately scheduled for Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, a day traditionally spent in solemn prayer and reflection. In Israel itself, essential services such as transportation and communications had been suspended in deference to the deep convictions of its Orthodox citizens.

The vileness of this choice of time for the attack was compounded by the Arabs' claim that Israel had started the war. This line was maintained even in the face of reports from United Nations observers that both the Egyptian and Syrian armies crossed the cease-fire lines while the Israelis had not. However, on Sunday afternoon, the official Egyptian news agency, Sawt El Arab, declared: "The battles which took place so far proved that the decision to attack which was taken by the responsible Arab leadership was not a mere adventure but a planned campaign which did not avoid the needed sacrifices that the leadership sees as the price of victory and the return of Arab land and honor."

The lax attitude of many countries, and the United Nations organization, toward terrorist activities against Jews and Israelis has served to encourage the Arabs in the belief that they could spill Jewish blood with impunity. Austria's surrender to Arab terrorists on Rosh Hashana is the most recent example. One after another, nations of Western Europe have refused to take significant measures to curb Arab terrorism within their own borders; many have actually released convicted Arab murderers from prison. The Munich killers, for example, have all been freed.

This indifference to Jewish lives—the complete subordination of morale, to strictly political considerations—is also reflected at the U.N. In 1967, Israel could barely, in Abba Eban's words, get "its plight inscribed on the agenda." Since then, the U.N. has refused to consider the most obvious acts of Arab terrorism and the brutal treatment of Jews in Arab nations. The present situation demands a reconsideration of the vocabulary of the Middle East conflict. Before, Arab leaders like Sadat had been described by the press as "moderate." This "moderate," Sadat, had declared in 1972: "In the coming campaign, liberation of our land will not be enough. There is no way out but the complete liquidation of Israel's arrogance," the latest euphemism for genocide. In the same speech, Sadat declared his willingness to sacrifice a million soldiers in another war. Sadat's words were translated this week into action, disputing the thesis of those who had interpreted his statements as mere rhetoric.

Israel now faces the combined military forces of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Tunisia. These four countries have been given unlimited financial aid from Libya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In addition to this one-sidedness, the Soviet Union has begun massive arms shipments to Egypt and Syria.

Except for the United States, no other country has expressed support for Israel. Almost 100 percent of Israel's economy is now being used in defense, and there is nothing left for food, medical supplies and absorption of new immigrants.

If Israel is to continue with a multi-week battle, much of the resources and manpower of the nation will be drained. We will tell Israel that we will help her. There are no countries that will give her the support that the Arab nations enjoy. It is up to the world's Jews and all the unapathetic humanitarians of all religions to give her their full support and sacrifice the only tool at our disposal in this country: MONEY.

The Israel Emergency Committee
Stratford Hall
276 Park Ave.

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the fact that given certain events and conditions created by history, certain things ought to be struggled against assuming many forms, i.e. individuals, laws, institutions and in some cases, censorship (denial). But, I stress, this must be done with (1) crucial and anti-human problems and (2) open, knowledgeable and rigorous thinking and action. Racism and anti-semitism are such problems.

Second, it is reasonable that some have suggested a critical discussion after the film-

showing. At least these sectors are cognizant of racism and the need to confront it. But we must remember that this suggestion was brought up after the Black students complained about the racism of King Kong, not before. So the third point of the Messrs' commentaries is not quite original (but an immediate reaction) in the aid against racism. This event should help white students to understand the setting of this not isolated act of racism, but the ramifications and seriousness beyond just a film. This event should help us to

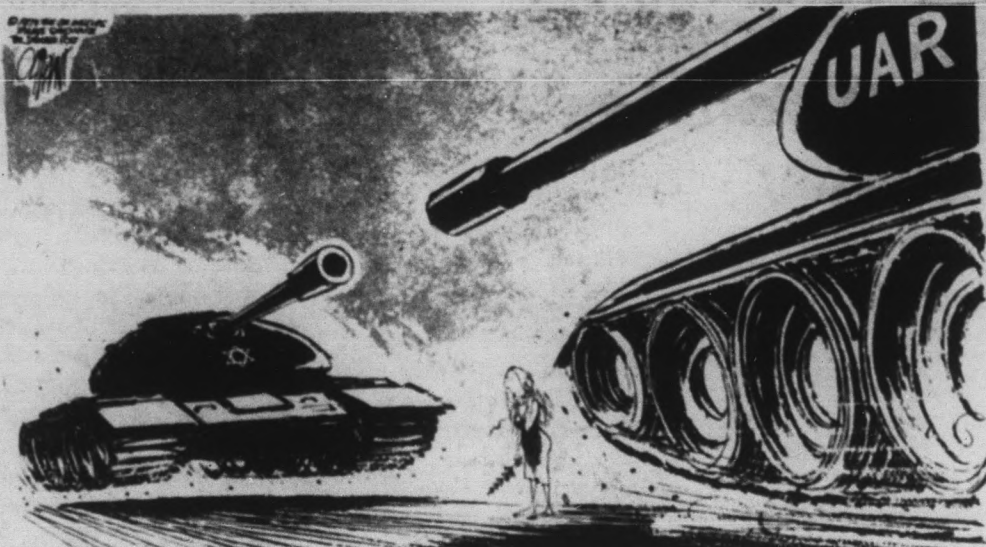
perceive the nature of our mental world.

Finally, this event should reveal to all, the obvious: the world is neither black nor white. Which is to say, human beings are complex and so are their problems. And that the solutions to their problems necessarily reside in sincerity, pain, reason, and activity. Pragmatic simplicity nor irrationality will succeed.

This is a letter, (rather

schematic) not a discourse. It was impossible, therefore, to convey an extended exposition concerning this most important matter: not King Kong but Racism. I believe the discussion ought to continue. I am willing to wait for Barclay and Kalbacher's reply in the Scribe. Perhaps we can begin a critical exchange amongst them, others and myself.

Kwaku Nkrumah



"HELLO? MR. NIXON? MR. BREZHNEV? COULD YOU SPEAK UP A LITTLE, PLEASE . . . ?"



WEEKLY SPECIAL

Syrians Goaded Sadat Into Yom Kippur War

by Jack Anderson

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WASHINGTON — The outbreak of fighting in the Middle East caught Washington by surprise. The intelligence reports from Syria and Egypt told of the military preparations and warned of the building tensions. But the White House policymakers didn't take the reports seriously.

We have seen some of the secret intelligence reports and can now relate the behind-the-scenes developments that led to this dangerous new outbreak.

In Cairo, President Sadat had been threatening Israel with an all-out war. But a secret intelligence dispatch said he gave contrary orders to the Egyptian Army to avoid provoking a war. Sadat explained to his generals that he had to talk tough to maintain international interest in the Middle East.

Sadat was goaded, however, by the Syrians. Syria's President Asad, in private conversations, belittled the Egyptians. One secret report quoted him as saying bluntly that he didn't expect much from Egyptians.

Other intelligence reports described a growing tendency among Arabs to treat Sadat's threats toward Israel with derision. The reports

warned this pressure from his fellow Arabs might force Sadat, even against his better judgment, to resume shooting.

Apparently, this is exactly what happened.

Commodities Market: The commodities market never has drawn the attention of the public like the stock market. There are no "glamour stocks" there — only wheat, corn and soybeans. Yet the commodities market has a much larger impact on our daily lives than the stock market.

The wild fluctuations of the market this past year, for example, were instrumental in driving up the prices of beef, bread and milk in the supermarkets.

Now, a House subcommittee is investigating the commodities market, and has already come up with some disturbing, unpublished evidence. The Commodities Exchange Authority, which is supposed to police the commodities market, allegedly filed false reports. There is evidence that CEA officials also have been cooperating with the big traders the agency is supposed to govern.

The House subcommittee is also considering a probe of the Russian wheat deal. We have already written, for ex-

BIG ONES

To the Editor:

There are those who say the Socialist Labor Party is all wet in claiming that the wealth of the country keeps on concentrating into fewer hands. Well, a wire dispatch from Washington reports that last year resulted in 39,000 fewer farms than in the previous year.

The Big ones are eating up the little ones.

This proves the Socialist Labor Party is right.

That's another reason why the program of the Socialist Labor Party—Real Socialism—Not as in England, Russia, Sweden, etc.; is needed more than ever before.

Now that a truce has been declared in Vietnam, let's see if capitalism can make it without the stimulant of war.

Nathan Pressman
Member of the
Socialist Labor Party

ample, that the Russians may have speculated on the U.S. futures market in violation of law.

Some may call it dull, but the commodities investigation may pay off in lower supermarket prices.

Labor Angered: President Nixon's romance with labor is on the rocks. From the beginning, it was a love affair of political expediency. The President and AFL-CIO boss George Meany shared a distaste for Senator George McGovern and the antiwar movement.

The courtship lasted through the 1972 campaign. Nixon was presented with an honorary hard hat and blue-collar workers trooped to the polls to help re-elect him. As their reward, the President appointed Peter Brennan, a tough New York labor leader, to be Secretary of Labor.

But now, the working men's ardor for Nixon has plummeted as living costs have skyrocketed. The purchasing power of the average worker has dropped two per cent while corporate profits have shot up 23 per cent.

At the supermarket, the worker finds food costs have gone up six per cent in the last six months. At the hospital, operating room charges have soared 48 per cent.

5960

Spector states his case

DR. STEPHEN SPECTOR

On Thursday, October 4, representatives of the Organization of Black Students came to a meeting of my class, "Gothic Fictions," to discuss with me, among other things, a blurb I had written about King Kong for the descriptive schedule of the S.C.B.O.D. Horror Film Series. They also presented me with a petition and a list of demands, the first of which was that King Kong not be shown.

The issues we discussed were extremely important, and I hope that we will continue to talk about them. While a showing of King Kong might seem trivial to some, it should be of real interest to all members of the University community: it is a White racist fiction of enormous popularity whose significance we need to understand in order to know ourselves. What I have written is meant to clarify and to expand the remarks I made in the blurb. I regret deeply that some of my words gave offense to some of the Black students on this campus; that such was not my intention will I trust become

clear.

First, let me introduce the text of the blurb:

He's still the champion of the monster-movie world. "Beauty and the Beast" in the service of the Great Western Racial Myth. The Black Man's God (and mirror-image), the Gorilla, lusts after the virginal White Goddess. Fay Wray's finest moment comes when her simian sweetheart shreds her clothes and sniffs the female scent that lingers on his fingers. After he's captured by the nasty Lilliputians we all root for the big ape who expires clinging to the tallest erection in das Kapitol of Imperialism, the Empire State Building. Now more than ever a shocking and moving film. The colossal battles between Kong and the prehistoric monsters rank among the finest (and goriest) achievements in cinematic animation and miniaturization.

My intention here, in addition to luring viewers to the film, was to reveal some of the many covert significances of King Kong, a film whose mythic quality has made it inevitably a favorite object of critical speculation. I chose to expose some of the more obscure but potent themes within the film, partly because I wanted to shock the reader-viewer into a recognition of the seriousness of King Kong and of popular fictions in general, especially those which are often dismissed as trivial or absurd. Our culture is importantly shaped by its fictions, which serve simultaneously to project and to mask the culture's ideology. I conceived that my blurb would begin to define King Kong's projected image and to unmask its significances so that the film would not be ingested passively. As I wrote in the blurb, at this point in American history King Kong demands to be understood "more than ever" as "a shocking and moving film," even though for the great majority of viewers it is merely another monster movie whose only



DR. STEPHEN SPECTOR

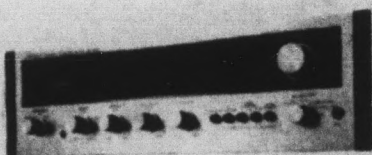
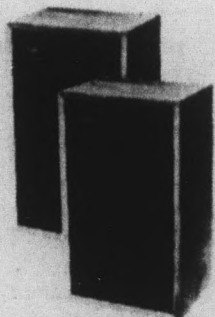
(Scribe photo by Bill Yang)

"I think most white people see the film purely as a horror film and don't see any racism in it. I was amazed to find that my words were misinterpreted."

—Dr. Spector

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value is to provide a few hours of silly escapism.

That which is shocking about King Kong is the way in which two aspects of what I referred to in the blurb as the "Great Western Racial Myth" secretly inform the very heart of the movie. Those two aspects are first, the White man's fantasy of racial superiority; and second, the complementary anxiety dream in which the Black man is a supremely powerful sexual being whose most intense desire is to ravish the White man's woman (a fantasy that is transparently a projection of the White man's own desire: he is the one who would secretly like to ravish his inaccessibly pure, lily-white lady). I assume that

both aspects of the Myth are familiar to us all, from sources as diverse as Gunnar Myrdal's scholarly study, *An American Dilemma*, from fiction like *Birth of a Nation* and *Native Son*, from social criticism like *Soul on Ice*, and most importantly from our everyday experiences.

The racial myths, as I have said, are concealed in King Kong, most obviously because King Kong, whom I interpret to be the White man's fantasy image of the Black man (imaged here as a powerful, lusty animal living in the heart of the dark, prehistoric jungle), is not a human being but a gorilla.

This simple displacement continued on page 7

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✓ Spector

continued from page 6

suffices to render the connection between Kong and the Black man invisible to most viewers, a fact which I have found attested to by the history of King Kong criticism as well as by the puzzled responses of most of the people who hear my interpretation for the first time.

When we realize that King Kong, who is worshipped by the natives of Skull Island (the natives and the island are two more examples of the white man's fantasy of Black Africa), comes to symbolize those very natives (that the gorilla is the black man's "mirror-image," as I wrote in the blurb, is, of course, part of the fantasy of the White man), the plot suddenly becomes pregnant with meaning.

Consider: a White man, in the middle of the Depression, goes to Skull Island in order to make a film he hopes will make him rich; while there he captures a giant gorilla, who incredibly falls in love with the woman who was to star in the movie, a virginal white innocent played by Fay Wray. Then the filmmaker, in true American entrepreneurial style, chains the gorilla and brings him to New York in his ship.

Back in the capitol of Western Imperialism, Manhattan ("Das Kapitol of Imperialism," I punned in my blurb), the gorilla is put to work, making the capitalist film-maker a fortune.

When the gorilla tries to escape he is gunned down by the Air Force as he clings to the top of the Empire State building with the white woman in his grasp. What do you make of that plot? Perhaps nothing very much except an ironic version of "Beauty and the Beast" until the substitution of Black man for gorilla is made. Then what had been concealed stands naked: King Kong's plot recapitulates in a distorted but symbolically significant way the history of slavery, Imperialism's most dramatic historical form.

King Kong's destiny is to be torn out of his ancient (here pre-

becomes an object of pathos because of the standard fictional convention that the underdog gains the viewer's sympathy. One more convincing explanation is that King Kong, as Claude Ollier has written, is "a mortal combat between the forces of mechanized civilization and the Gorilla-God of primitive nature;" or, as X.J. Kennedy puts it, a dramatization of "the dilemma of a displaced animal spirit forced to live in a jungle built by machines."

In the battle between Nature and Machine we all know to side with Nature, the side closet to us

"The blurb I wrote for the handout was completely misinterpreted. The second and third sentences, instead of being racist, are an attack on racism in the film."

—Dr. Spector

historic) homeland, to be chained and transported on a slaveship to America, and to be put to cruel labor for the profit of the White man. When he attempts to escape he is murdered by the state.

Here we should look more closely at the emotional dynamics of the film and the immediate question that comes to mind: why, if King Kong secretly portrays the Great Western Racial Myth, do we (Whites as well as Blacks), "all root for the big ape?" There is no simple or single answer to that question, but some possibilities have been suggested.

Let us admit at once that Kong, as soon as he is trapped,

humans and Our Human Nature. Of course this simple opposition between Nature (Kong, animality, Nature, passion, nobility) and Machines (New York, skyscrapers, the stock market, dishonesty) cracks apart when we perceive that it is based on another fiction; after all, Kong is simply a machine, a man-made model who apes the Natural ape, and our consciousness that he is not real always lurks near the surface of our perception when we watch the movie. Nevertheless we do maintain the first fiction: Kong stands for our lost Natural identity. To identify with him is inevitable; he is what we wish we had not lost back in some pastoral past. Kong's revenge is therefore our revenge; as Kennedy writes, "what subway commuter wouldn't love—just for once—to see the downtown express smash head-on into the uptown local?"

While this kind of interpretation is convincing we might ask some pointed questions about it. If the viewer does identify with Kong in this way he dramatically reverses his position in the emotional scheme of things; instead of being the oppressor (the film-makers, the White men) he becomes the victim (taking on the role of the Black man), psychologically a much more comfortable position to adopt. Even though in reality the White viewer is historically part of the oppressor group and might share in the conscious racist attitudes of the film-makers, by identifying with Kong he can free himself of guilt and pretend that he is to be pitied.

Moreover, the interpretation that the real victim is Nature, can be viewed itself as a self-serving strategy to soothe the uneasy White conscience, because if the oppressor is merely Industrialism or Civilization or Progress there is no identification of the specific, historical oppressor—the exploitive, capitalist bourgeoisie. By focusing on an abstract, timeless, general level of reality the interpreter is able to deflect recognition away from his own

guilt and to project it onto the guilt of a state of things for which he takes no responsibility. After all, we all suffer from the domination of the machine; and when we portray ourselves as the victims of the machine we usually conveniently forget to add that it is our own culture, of which we are inevitably a part, which created the machines in the first place. The subway trains we want to destroy are our own products, even though we might feel deeply alienated from them.

An interpretation recognizing the historical and racial significance of King Kong is necessary but of course other perspectives are possible.

For example, from the point of view of the course I teach, "Gothic Fictions," King Kong may be seen as one instance of an endlessly repeated motif: the destructive revenge of the repressed and the past in the form of a nightmarish monster who is sufficiently stylized to mask the origin of that which is symbolized and sufficiently grotesque to be dismissed as unreal even as we scream in horror. Often, as frequently happens at screenings of King Kong, the dismissal is accomplished through laughter: parody and camp are never far from Gothic terror.

From the Gothic perspective King Kong is a ghost story in which the ghosts of socially unacceptable sadistic sexual fantasies and the ghosts of ruined Nature join the ghosts of racism: King Kong's return and revenge may be seen as the momentary triumph of the repressed, while his destruction, an event we all know is unjust, reflects the ultimate triumph of civilization, the censor, and the super-ego.

I could continue to discuss King Kong further, but I trust my point about the significance of it has been made. I would like now to consider the demand by the OBS that King Kong not be shown. The obvious reply, and one that is valid, is that censorship, in whatever guise, is unacceptable, especially within a university. Just as important a consideration as the principle of the freedom of expressions the responsibility to use that freedom intelligently and humanely.

To show King Kong, and not to point out that it does embody a racist myth when we believe that it does, would be an abroga-

October 16, 1973—THE SCRIBE—7

tion of intellectual responsibility, especially because that myth, unexposed and unchallenged, does enormous damage.

Part of my intention when I wrote the blurb was precisely to make it possible for students to see the film for what I think it is, to help them come to see that unconscious racism has pervaded our culture and continues to do so. Of course one blurb and one critically active response to one film will not change anybody's consciousness dramatically, but to pretend that the process is completely impotent is to deny the power of critical thought, an opinion entirely congruent with the ideology of oppression. Perhaps my blurb was not carefully phrased enough for my purpose; perhaps I was not explicit enough, even though I believe that it can effectively prod the reader into realizing what is implicit in the film for himself. Rather than drumming understanding into the reader I hoped to allow his own understanding to emerge, led gently by my brief remarks.

I would like to repeat here what I proposed to the representatives of OBS, that we turn an evening's entertainment into an evening's education. Instead of once more swallowing the myth with the popcorn we could try to understand what our myths mean.

As I suggested, members of the OBS could lead a critical discussion of the film after it is shown; the ensuing exchange of ideas would help everyone understand a little bit more about a crucial aspect of his culture. That there is racism at the university is as undeniable as the fact that racism touches every aspect of our culture. But censorship does not seem to me a tactically or morally acceptable way to confront it. Here we have a chance to confront racism in one of its most elusive coverts; why not bring it to light.

Hockey results

Keeping up the winning tradition at UB, the field hockey team, under coach Miki DeBaise, defeated their first two opponents Mitchell College (3-0) and Rhode Island (3-2), before losing to Springfield, 3-0.

The Mahavishnu Orchestra with John McLaughlin will perform Sunday, October 28, in Woolsey Hall, corner of Grove and College streets, New Haven, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4.50 in advance; \$5.00 at the door. In Bridgeport, you can get tickets at Karl Graf Records.

The concert is being presented by Entrophy, a non-profit organization, built around the concept of musicians, willing to use their skills to contribute constructive change in America.

Campus Calendar

TODAY

The movie, "King Kong," will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Social Room. Admission is 75 cents. There will be a discussion following the movie on the racial aspects of the movie.

A Master Dance Class will be held in the Harvey Hubbell gym, 7 to 8:30 p.m. The class will be taught by Cathy Ward, a member of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. The fee is one dollar for university students with I.D. cards, and all others will be charged \$1.50. All participants are asked to wear leotards and footless tights.

WEDNESDAY

At 8 p.m., there will be a talk titled, "Wilhelm Reich—His Life and Work." It will be given by his widow, Mrs. Ilse Ollendorff Reich, in the A&H building, room 217. The talk will be sponsored by the German Club, and given in English. There will be no admission.

THURSDAY

There will be a clinic given on the fundamentals of pistol shooting, 2-5 p.m., at the Lordship Gun Club. It will be co-sponsored by Arnold College and the Remington Arms Company, and conducted by Sgt. Aubrey Smith, coach of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit. There will be a charge of one dollar for ammunition. If interested, call Arnold College office, ext. 293.

The Interfaith sponsored Film Festival on the theme of death, will present a Japanese film, "Ikuru," to be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center. There is no admission fee.

At 8 p.m. in the Student Center, room 207-209, there will be a meeting of all student clubs and organizations. All student organizations must send an authorized representative to this meeting. Student Center mailboxes, Student Council funding, and other general information will be discussed.

GENERAL

The deadline for part-time student applications for Financial Aid for the 1973-74 year is Oct. 26, 1973.

If you are interested in giving your time to write letters to inmates at the North End Jail, or to learn about aspects of prison life, come to the Interfaith Center on Thursdays at 4 p.m.

An informal discussion will follow the Hevra Kasher Sabbath dinner at 6 p.m. Friday evening, in Stratford Hall. For further information, contact David Leichman, ext. 441. Admission is one dollar.

Anyone interested in helping to make plans for this year's Thanksgiving Supper at the Interfaith Center, call ext. 297 and ask for Bob Brasheer. The supper is being planned for Nov. 18.

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SPORTS

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FOOTBALL AT CORTLAND
SAT., OCT. 20, 1:30 P.M.

UB Drubs 'Hawks, 21-7

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.—The big bang many people expected just didn't materialize.

The University of Bridgeport Purple Knights, coming off a joyous clobbering of New England powerhouse and rival Central Connecticut a week ago, got by with only enough to win and nothing more Saturday as they dismayed the Seahawks of Wagner College, 21-7, before a fraternal Parents' Day audience of 3500 at sunny Fischer Field.

The Knights, now 4-1 with three straight victories since their 22-game winning streak was snapped by American International College, put together a control offense which churned out 27 first downs and kept from punting itself away during the first half, allowing them to go to the halftime lockerroom ahead, 14-7.

The Seahawks, however, were not, by any means, as formidable an opponent as Central and had to call upon the services of a freshman quarterback, two freshmen halfbacks and a handful of defensive players to fill key positions vacated by injuries to veteran starters.

The contest, which may have been the last game ever between the two opponents, saw the Knights consume most of the time in the opening quarter and score twice. One touchdown came on a one-yard dive by quarterback Mitch Sanders, an All-ECAC pick last week and one of the leading passers in the country, and another on a 19-yard pass to tight end Don Perry from Sanders with 1:12 remaining in the period.

Bridgeport was held scoreless in the second quarter, however, and Wagner was able to get into the scoring column when Seahawk defensive back Bill Geltzeiler intercepted a Sanders pass

intended for Perry near the end of a long Knight drive in the early moments of the period. Sanders underthrew the big tight end who was running a square-out near the goal line.

Geltzeiler made a perfectly-timed defensive maneuver, grabbed the ball and flew the full length of the field for a 100-yard touchdown, the long Wagner score. Geltzeiler hurdled his only would-be tackler, Sanders, near the Bridgeport 40-yard line on his way to the endzone.

From that point on, however, the game, despite a few fleeting moments of excitement, fell into limbo. It ended up as a punters' duel—Wayne Hamlet against Bob Bryant of the Seahawks.

Although Sanders scored one more touchdown on a three-yard run in the third period following another tedious and drawn-out Knight drive mastered by the power running of Vin Detore, Tony Esposito and Ron Mason, the game dropped to a hum-drum, five-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust affair.

Detore, who ran for 100 yards for the first time in 1973, along with Mason, who had 95 yards on 22 attempts before leaving the game with a twisted ankle in the fourth period, lead the Purple ground game which turned out to be the most impressive part of the offensive attack with 311 total yards.

The Knight defense, shutting out its opponent for the first time this season, held the Seahawks in check, allowing them only 39 offensive plays and a total of 118 yards. "We played well," co-captain and linebacker George Williams said of the Purple defense following the two-hour contest, "But I don't think we hit like we're capable of hitting."



Halfback Jim Lorde of UB moves away from a SCSC defender in last Saturday's soccer action at Seaside Park. Sporting an 8-1 record, the kickers are closing in on the number one ranking in New England.

(Scribe photo by Bill Yang)

Booters take 6th in row,

By TOMM VALUCKAS

Scribe Sports

"They voted for Brown number one...but we're number one" a contented Fran Bacon said after his team outlasted hustling Southern Connecticut, 3-1, last Saturday afternoon at Seaside Park in the purple kickers latest outing. The win raised UB's season mark to 8-1.

Coch Bacon was alluding to Bridgeport's number two New England ranking behind Brown University, a team that has not played as many games as the Knights. Last reports had UB 12th in the nation, but they should have moved up in the standings with their recent wins over Southern and Rhode Island (1-0).

Despite heading into the whipping zephyrs in the first half, Bridgeport outplayed Rhody in every phase of the game, but could not get that one goal lead.

UB's pressure pace slackened somewhat at the start of half two, but that one score that would loom ever so big on this blustery day was smacked in by Marbue Richards at 3:56, from about 15 yards out, after he took a neat pass from Jimmy Lorde.

As in all their previous games, UB outshot the foe, firing 30 attempts to the Rams' 14, and leading in corner kicks 5-2. Wilson made eight stops, while Kevin Daly turned aside ten Bridgeport shots.

A stiff breeze at Seaside caused its usual problems last Saturday when the Knights took on Southern's Owls, and UB came away with a shaky 3-1 verdict. Erratic but clutch ball

control in key situations throughout the game by UB held off the spirited Owls, who saw their record drop to 1-2-2.

Richards opened the scoring at 3:26 on a direct kick from 18 yards out after a dangerous play was called on Southern. Owls goalie Don Roser had no chance on the screen shot that flew over the wall of players in front of him. O'Neill put in a clever goal moments later when he took a pass from Dejan Cokic at midfield and outmaneuvered two defenders on his way to the SCSC net, before letting fly his successful shot at 13:51.

But then Southern took charge for the rest of the half, and Bacon's half-time comment of "If you play like you did for the last 25 minutes, you're going to lose this game," seemed to be coming true when Larry Caldwell outraced Matty Peck and Sal Shifilliti to the ball on a booming pass and scored at 7:3 to close the UB lead to 2-1.

Controlling the play when they had to, UB tallied the insurance goal at 40:36 when Lorde converted a short pass from Wayne Grant, and the Knights barely managed to outshoot the Owls, 18-16 at the gun. "All in all, it's a victory," Bacon concluded, his booters sixth in a row.

Purple Pucksters who have not registered for the hockey team, which they must do before Saturday's season opener, may do so tonight by contacting Tomm Valuckas in the Scribe office from 7-11 p.m.

Freshmen lose

The Purple Knight freshmen football team came up empty last Saturday in its season opener, as they were shut out by tough Milford Academy, 27-0, with Milford capitalizing on just about all of UB's mistakes.

Of all the quarters, the first was the "baby gridders" best as

neither team was able to put points on the board. That was the last time Bridgeport was even because with just 1:50 elapsed in the second, Milford's Marty Paster was wide left open in the endzone, and the Knights were behind, 6-0.

Bridgeport	14	0	7	0-21
Wagner	0	7	0	0-7
B—Sanders, 1 run (Wanamaker kick)				
B—Don Perry, 19 pass from Sanders (Wanamaker kick)				
W—Geltzeiler, 100 interception return (Cchoefer kick)				
B—Sanders, 3 run (Wanamaker kick)				



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